NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1877.

## Vol ... X X X VII .... No. 11,244.

## SLAUGHTER BY FIRE.

A ST. LOUIS HOTEL BURNED. DESTRUCTION OF THE SOUTHERN HOTEL-NARROW ESCAPE OF THE GUESTS-FEARS THAT MANY

PERISHED IN THE FLAMES. The Southern Hotel, one of the largest and finest hotels in St. Louis, was burned yesterday morning. The fire was discovered at 1:25 a. m., and in less than an hour it was a heap of ruins. The affrighted immates, on being roused from sleep, were met by clouds of smoke, which filled the halls and rendered escape difficult. Many were rescued by means of ladders, and some threw themselves from windows or let themselves down by topes and bedclothes torn into strips. Six men were killed by jumping from windows, and it is feared that many perished by smoke and fire. In the upper stories-beyond the reach of assistance-were about eighty servants. It is doubtful if many of them escaped; for the entire upper part of the building was in flames when the fire was first dis-

HAIRBREADTH ESCAPES.

THE NUMBER OF KILLED ESTIMATED AT FROM 50 TO 100-DELAY IN GETTING THE ENGINES AND LADDERS AT WORK-PATHETIC SCENES.

covered. Below are lists of the rescued and

lost so far as ascertained.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO, THE TRIBUNE. St. Louis, Mo., April 11 .- At 1:30 o'clock this morning the Southern Hotel was discovered to be on fire. The flames had evidently been at work for some time, for when the alarm was sounded, which was no doubt at the moment of discovery, the entire upper portion of the building was on fire. The flames were bursting from the roof, while from the upper windows the smoke poured forth in dense volumes. The scene which presented itself when THE TRIBUNE correspondent arrived upon the ground fairly beggars description, and cannot be presented with all its horrors. The greater number of rooms on the two upper floors were occupied by permanent boarders. These, awakened from their sleep by the terrible cry of fire and almost suffocated by the dense smoke as it forced its way through the halls and rendered exit by them extremely bazardous, if not impossible-rushed to the windows, and throwing them open, cried in agonized tones for help. Those in the streets could see, but could render no assistance further than to cry, "Hold on; hold on. Don't jump. We'll try and get you out."

The hook and ladder waggons came, but there was seemingly an interminable delay in getto work, and, without exaggeration, the spectators who partook of the prevailing excitement it seemed as though the department was without its usual efficiency, and that assistance would never be rendered. The poor creatures hanging from the upper windows continued their eries, which smote upon the rars of their help-less hearers below with such force as can better be imagined than described.

At last, when it seemed as though the flames had gained almost full possession of the sixth story, the ladders were brought into requisition; but they

youd the fourth floor. The cries of "Help! Help!" as they rang forth from all sides, seemed to paralyze the firemen as well as the others who were lookers-on. Some one with a cool head suggested that the longest ladders be raised to the top of the Walnut-st, verrandah, which would have the effect of lengthening them by two stories. This was done, and by it many were saved.

From the busy workers about the debris there was but one opinion, and that the numbers reported lost are by one-haif too low in estimation, "I'll tell you what," said one sturdy worker, "I worked at removing the bodies at the Brookly Theatre, and we didn't think there were over a dozen burned, when the fire is down and we get to work here, it's my honest opinion the people will be surprised. It is of course impossible to approximute the number lost in the fire, but the prevailing 100, persons lie buried in the general demolition. A record of those saved is being kept at the Lindell Hotel; but thus far not more than 50 persons, who were in the Southern last night have signed it. It is reported that Edward Kerre, the French Consul at Chicago, arrived in the city last night and put up at the Southern. As ne word can be obtained concerning him, many believe that he perished in the flames. Among the fortunate ones who escaped the fiery element at the Southern was F. J. Gumpert, esq., of New-York, agent for Blood's needles. He pushed through a suffocating smoke, which almost took his breath, and reached

the street in safety.

Miss Kate Claxton's experiences with the fiery element have been the means of making her a most notable person. She was a prominent figure in the record of the terrible Brooklyn fire, where several hundred lives were lost, and her visit to St. Louis has added to her reputation for good fortune in time of peril. Thus far during her prescut engagement of "The Two Orphaus" at the Olympic, she has been quartered at the Southern and occupied a room on the third floor. She was awakened from a sound sleep by a loud cry of "fire!" from the hall. Jumping out of bed, she groped her way to the door and opened it to fied the place was dense with smoke and that immediate action was necessary. Slipping into the scantiest of germents, she threw up one of the windows to ascertain the chance of escaping by that route, and, finding it decidedly slender, she concluded her only hope of escape lay by the hallway. People were screaming and hurrying past her door, and she determined in an instant to cast her lot with them. There were no lights, and what was done had to be done in darkness. Entering the hall, she hurried in the direction of the stairway, and, before proceeding far, was materially assisted by a gentle-man, who seized hold of her arm and pushed her along. With a proper appreciation of the need for haste, when she came to stairway she fell down and rolled for some dis tance after getting to the bottom, but, not being badly hurt, was able to pick hetself up expeditiously and make her escape. She lost every article of clothing she had in the hotel save what she had on.

Mr. Joseph Pulitzer occupied rooms Nos. 504 and 305. He escaped almost naked. His statement to the reporter was rather brief and interesting. He returned to the hotel at about 11:30 o'clock from a congenial tea-party at Mrs. Morrison's house, where, in company Senator Bogy, the Hon. Erastus Wells, Mr. Caulfield of Chicago, Gen. Clark, the member of Congress, and others, he had spent a very pleasant evening. After a chat with Mr. Herman Linde, a famous German reader, who had just returned from one of his recitations, Mr. Putitzer at about half after midnight retired. Precisely an hour afterward he awoke, hearing loud cries of "Fire" on the street below Hearing no alarm from the hotel office, he says he remained perfectly quiet until he heard the shricks of women on the floor below. He went out without dressing, and found the staircase and corridor thoroughly filled with smoke. He never returned to his room, and was nearly to death when he reached the exit on Fifth-st. Mr. Pulitzer thinks that the alarm bell never was sounded inside of the hotel, and people on the street told him the fire was ob-

thinks, will probably prove great.

A most pathetic scene was witnessed by many of the spectators on the Fourth-st. side. Just

as the danger appeared most imminent, in the fifth-story window, upon a background of larid flame, might be seen the profiles of a man and woman, shaking bands and taking a last farewell of each other. They had stood at the the store-room in the basement, and was first seen window and appealed for aid until hope gave out, and-inst wilen they felt the volumes of smoke overcoming them and saw the flames apparently stretching toward them with rapid strides-they felt into each other's arms, and were evidently prepared for the worst. The scenes in the saloons where the rescued per-

ons were placed temporarily were most heartrending. Many swooned when they realized the danger they had passed. Many were injured in the crush; most of them were in a wretcedly forlorn condition as to clothing, and in some of the saloons the dead and dying were stretched out waiting the coming of friends. A thrilling scene was witnessed at the east front at about 2:30 o'clock. A number of people had been taken out of that portion of the building by means of the Skinner truck, which had then been removed, it being supposed that that side had been emptied of its inmates. Suddenly at one of the windows on the fourth floor a man appeared in a night-dress. Glancing around he seemed to realize his situation perfectly. The ladder had been taken away, and below him was a sheer descent of 60 feet. To jump was certain death. 'What shall I do?" he asked. "Stay where you are," answered the crowd, aroused to a clear appreciation of the imminence of the danger, and of the possibility of securing help. "God de-liver me!" he exclaimed, looking up at the furid sky, and down at the floors below him now all ablaze. He looked up at the sky and clasped his hands in prayer: "Lord, for Jesus sake," could be easily heard by the throng below, calmed into perfect silence. It seemed hours before the truck was brought. It must have seemed eenturies to the lonely man, standing at the darkened window, lighted by an occasional flash from the flames around him, and startled by the crash, that came here and there, of falling walls. "Lord, for Jesus sake," he cried. "Stand where you are," said fifty voices. The truck finally came and was slowly and clumsily raised to the window, Two firemen went up and put the man on the ladder. He came down slowly, his limbs trembling beneath him. At the bottom he raised himself up to his full hight. "Hurrah for St. Louis," he cried; "New-York ain't dead yet." Then raising his hand up to the sky, he said in a lower tone: "Lord forgive me for every sin that I have ever committed. To think of having your door opened with a cry, and find the whole building on fire, and then to get out! Lord I thank thee! I have been in fires before, and in battles and fights, but this beats all." He was too much excited to give any rational account of himself, and was hur- whirled round and round, and finally struck on the ried away in an overcoat which had to be forced on his shoulders and held there by the two strong firemen who escorted him to a place of safety.

Miss Claxton lost everything-her wardrobe, and what she valued most, a number of valuable papers, &c., which she had preserved for a long time, and whose loss is a severe one. The clothing she had on had been leaned her by kind friends; and while the were far too short, the longest scarcely reaching be- reporter was speaking with her a maid entered with a small package, which evidently contained some garment, and for which Miss Claxton returned her.

THE ESCAPE OF MR. TYSON.

A MARVELLOUS CASE OF PRESENCE OF MIND-EF-FORTS TO SAVE OTHERS WHILE HIMSELF IN

FRY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE St. Louis, April 11.-The escape of Edward P. Tyson of New-York may be said to be owing to his remarkable coolness and presence of mind. He says he was awakened by hearing a noise as of somebody scuilling or quarrelling in the hall. The smoke and fames of fire very quickly told him the whole story. Instead of madly rushthrough the smoke and flames, he closed his room others were carried away by friends, and their names door, got up and shut the transom above, and then have not yet been ascertained. coully proceeded to dress himself.

He says that it took only a few moments of thought to convince him that his road to safety was out of his bedroom window and not through the hallways. He went to the beds, of which there were two in his room. Taking the blankets from them he cut them into strips to make a rope, with which he intended to lower himself to the one-story building, immediately under his window. After he had tied his blanket strips together he went over all the knots again and thoroughly tested them to make sure they would not slip. Then, to be certain of having enough of rope to reach the ground, he took the counterpanes of the bed and added them to the

blanket strips. People appeared on the roof of the building imme diately underneath him and prepared to get a rope to him. Then he let done his bedclothes rope and hauled up first a small twine rope and then a larger one. This done, he endeavored to throw the small rope still attached to the large one to the window at which were the women above him. After a number of unsuccessful attempts he detached the small rope from the large one, and fastening the latter to the leg of his bedstead succeeded in throwing the small end to the women, who managed to catch it at last. It dangled down a long ways from the ground however, and was practically of no use to them.

Mr. Tyson then prepared to descend to the ground. He pitched his valise and trunk out of the window. He got down to the sill of the window in the story below, and stopped there for a moment to get a better grasp of the rope, and then went on down, handover-hand, reaching the ground without a scratch or injury of any kind.

SCENES AT THE FIRE.

RAPID SPREAD OF THE FLAMES-ROOMS AND COR-RIDORS FILLED WITH BLINDING SMOKE-FRANTIC GUESTS JUMP FROM HIGH WINDOWS-FEARS THAT MANY WERE KILLED.

St. Louis, Mo., April 11 .- At about half past this morning the Southern Hotel, on Walnut, Fourth, Elm and Fifth-sts., was found to be on fire. The alarm was given at once, and every effort was made to rouse the sleeping inmates. The Southern Hotel was one of the finest and most popular in the city, and was well filled, though, as the register has been burned, it is impossible now to ascertain how many people were in the burning building. The Salvage Corps responded to the alarm before it was sounded on the city bells, and before the engine arrived the entire upper stories were in flames.

At 2 o'clock the scenes in the immediate vicinity of the hotel were indescribable, the excitement being of the most intense character. The windows in the upper stories were crowded with shricking men and vomen, whom it seemed impossible to save. A few were rescued by ladders placed in the Fourth-st, por tice, but on the other three sides of the buildingbounded by Fifth, Walnut, and Elm-sts.—the longest ladders fell far short of reaching the windows. Mr. Peter Blow, son of the former Minister to Brazil, was sleeping in his room on the sixth floor, and succeeded, after strenuous exertions, in escaping with a broken arm. The building was six stories in hight, and Mr. Blow thinks that the majority of the inmates of the two upper stories of the building must have perished. Two men unrecognized were killed by jumping from the third story windows, and a third one was badly mangled. Five women were rescued from the sixth story on served from the street nearly 20 minutes before the

fire alarm was given. The loss of life, Mr. Pulitzer | the Fourth-st. side by the efforts of the firemen who, after ascending the patent ladders, succeeded in getting a rope to the half-suffocated creatures.

The number of lives lost cannot now be given, but it is feared that some 40 or 50 persons perished, either by being burned directly or first smothered by smoke and then consumed. From the best information at hand it seems that the fire caught in coming through the ground floor just north of the office, and in ten minutes it had ascended the elevators and rotunda, and spread itself over the sixth floor under the roof. This floor was occupied entirely by employes of the hotel, the most of whom were women. The fire spread rapidly, filling every room and hole with flames and smoke, and the scene was of the most terrible description. Frantic men, women, and children ran through the halls shricking in the most heartrending manner in their wild and desperate efforts to escape. The smoke was so dense in some of the halls that the gas jets were extinguished, which rendered egress, even to those most familiar with the building, a matter of great difficulty.

The Fire Department was on the spot promptly, and hundreds of people congregated at the scene, ready and willing to render any aid necessary. The density of the smoke in the halls drove many guests and boarders back into their rooms, who rushed to the windows as a means of escape. Ladders were raised as soon as possible, and women and children, dressed in only their nightclothes, were thus taken from the burning building. Some fainted from fright and others sank exhausted to the ground from nervous prostration. The ladders generally were too short to reach to the fifth and sixth stories, but by hoisting some of them on the one story balcony on the east side, and the two-story balcony on the north side of the building, these floors were reached, and all those at the windows were rescued. The Skinner fire-escape was also brought promptly into service, and was the means of saving many lives.

SCENES OF HORROR. While this work was going on some frightful scenes occurred. One man, who had been occupying a window on the Walnut-st. front of the hotel, became desperate at the seeming delay in effecting his escape. With nervous hands he tore the sheets from his bed into strips, tied them together, fastening this improvised rope to the indow-sill, and disregarding the fact that it did of reach more than twenty feet, he let himself down hand over hand. Men below who saw his position turned away their faces to avoid witnessing the sickening event that was inevitable. Finally he reached the end of the rope, and then for the first time he seemed to realize his position. He stopped, threw his head back, revealing a ghastly face, and swung slowly to and fro, swayed by the breeze which the roaring flames above created. His limbs away around convalsively as though to catch upon something, then he let go and groans went up from hundreds as he stone flagging with a sickening thad. He was carried to a saloon across the street and died in a few moments. Two other men jumped from the fourthstory windows, one of whom seemed not to be dangerously hurt, while the other expired in a few mo-

A woman at a fifth-story window on the Fifth-st. front became panic-stricken and jumped out. She alighted on her feet and was carried to the St. James Fotel still alive. Her husband, who had been standing by her side, then tore up the bedding and let the strips so made out of the window. To this the firemen attached a rose, which the man hauled up, making it fast to the window-sill, and safely descended by it. J. E. Wilson jumped from a fourth-story window and was killed. Andrew Eusman and a Mrz. Scott met their death in the same way.

The mortality among the female help of the hotel is feared to be great. There were some two hundred of them, all of whom were lodged in the upper story of the building. The panic manng them was perfectly terrible, and a number of them jumped from the upper windows on the Elm-st, or kind of sauggling. The largest dry goods houses rear side of the house. Some of them are known ing into the hall and endeavoring to make his way to have been killed in this manner, and several

At a quarter past 2, or about half an hour after the fire was discovered, the entire roof was abiaze and the flames were rapidly descending to the lower stories. A half hour later the floors and interior wall becan to fall. The roof fell in and there is nothing left of one of the finest notels in the country, except the Walnut-st. front and parts of the Fourth and Fifth-sis, faces. The loss on the building and contents will be from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000.

The fire engines are still playing on the fire. A force has been organized to search for dead bodies. but the Fire Department have not yet succeeded in cooling off the debris sufficiently to enable search to be made. There are several dead bodies at the Morgue waiting identification. Six persons, whose names are unknown, were killed either by jumping from windows or were suffocated by smoke and dragged out of the burning building. It is difficult to procure the names of the dead, but it is hoped that a complete or nearly complete list of them will be obtained this evening.

Great crowds of people have thronged the vicinity of the fire all day, some of them looking for absent friends, but the great mass of them were incited only by enriesity. There is a strong guard of police surrounding the rains, and no one is permitted within the limits excepting reporters and those directly interested in the calamity.

It was at first reported that Kate Clayton, who so narrowly escaped death at the burning of the Brooklyn Theater, had Ssuffered serious injury. This proves to have been without foundation. She had nfficient presence of mind to wrap her face and head with wetted towels, and walked and rolled

THE KILLED.

Dr. Auler, the coroner, gives the following list of the killed as reported to him, and he thinks it comprises all now known to be dead.

ADAMS, The Rev. A. R., incumbent of a parish in Berk-shire, England. He was on his way from Fiorida to California. His remains await the order of friends. CAREY, MARY, a servant killed by jumping from the

window.

CLARK, W. F. (or H. M.), a railroad conductor; said to
have formerly resided in Toledo, Ohio, with his wife

ESSMAN, ANDREW, killed by jumping from a window. GONLEY, GRORE FRANK, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Missouri; is supposed to have perished in the flames.

HAYDEN, SIDMORE, Superintendent of the American Express stables. HAZEN, HENRY, Deputy Auditor of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company. He was formerly from castle, Penn., whither his remains will be sent. ISLMAN, ANDREW E., of the firm of Frieshman & Co. of

MEAD, BRIDGET, a servant, killed by jumping from the

MUNSTER, WM. FELIX, an ex-Member of the British CESTER, WM. FELIX, an ex-Member of the British House of Commons, who was nearried in this city a few months ago. He was residing at the hotel with his wife, became separated from ner during the fire, and under the impression that sie was kniled, he became intensely excited, and evidently lost his mental balance. About 6 o'clock this morning he went to the room of a friend, on the corner of Fourth and Olive-sts, and shot himself. The corner held an inquest, but could not decide whether his death was caused by snicide or accident. There are numerous reports regarding the matter, one to the effect that he knew his wife was saved, and that he knied himself while laboring under mental derangement.

REILLY, ELLEN, a servant, killed by jumping from a SCOTT, Mrs., killed by jumping from a window. STEWAR, Mrs., St. Louis.

See Fifth Page.

WASHINGTON.

NEW-YORK CUSTOM-HOUSE. AN INVESTIGATION AT ONCE-LYDECKER'S OPERA-TIONS TO BE PROVED-VARIOUS REFORMS.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, April 11 -- The proposed investigation of the New-York Custom-house will begin at once. It will not be directed against individual officers, but will be conducted with the sole aim of ascertaining exactly the manner in which the business of that institution is transacted, the efficiency with which the revenue is collected, and the character of the public service there. Numerous con plaints have been received at the Treasury Department from merchants, Custom-bouse brokers and others as to the manner in which the business of the New-York Custom-house is conducted. Many of these undoubtedly will be discovered to be unfounded, and some of them may have arisen from personal misunderstanding between Government officials and persons doing business at the Customhouse. For others there may be ample ground, and it is the object of the Secretary to ascertain all the facts in order to introduce such reforms as may be found to be necessary. An impression prevails in Administration circles

that the present force of clerks and employes in the New-York Custom-house is greater than is necessary for an efficient collection of the revenue. It is believed that some of the prominent officials do not give that amount of time and attention to their duties which the Government has a right to expect from them, and that many of the subordinates who have been appointed for political services, or for their supposed influence in managing the primaries and running political conventions, are not as competent for the performance of their particular duties as they might be. It will be the desire of the President and the Secretary of the Treasury materially to reduce the force in the New-York Custom-house, at the same time that its efficiency is improved, and to break up all abuses which may have grown up under the present or former Administrations. The irregular performances of Special Deputy Col-

lector Lydecker had not been brought to the attention of the President or the Secretary of the Treasury until reported in THE TERRUSE. The accusa tions will be thoroughly investigated. There is not the slightest doubt that Mr. Lydecker has been guilty of the transactions as reported yesterday; and a thorough investigation will not only disclose the names of the persons referred to as having been favored by him, but also the dates of the several transactions. They have been known for several months to newspaper correspondents in Washington, and an official record of them can probably be found in the Treasury Department itself. It may be said, too, that each one of these gransactions was officially brought to the attention of Collector Arthur at the time of their discovery but it is not known what disposition was then made of them. The names of the prominent persons in connection with whose importations these irregularities occurred are withheld for the reason that in several instances at least they are wholly ignorant that anything of the kind had occurred, and would have denounced it if it had come to their

No important changes will be made in the New-York Custom-house until about the time of the meeting of Congress in extra session. The only vacancy now existing there is that in the office of the Surveyor of the Port. Soon after the inauguration, it was supposed that the President would fill this vacancy at once, and it was expected that Gen. Merritt of St. Lawrence County would be appointed. The mane of Gen. Sharpe's successor will undoubt edly be sent to the Senate during its extra session.

The announcement that an investigation had begun into alleged frauds in the importation of silks, made in The Tribune dispatches a few days ago, has arready resulted in bringing out much new evidence on this subject. Letters and dispatches from several Western cities corroborate the statements of fact already made, and prove the great interest which is felt by prominent dealers in sitk goods all over the country in a speedy suppression of this of Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and other Westeru cities have, like those of New-York, been driven out of the business of direct importation by the system of undervaluation practiced by certain stood to have claimed since then that the agreement did not cover civil immunity. the trade in broad silks and ribbons. Keith Bros. of Chicago, a very large house, which formerly insported ribbons extensively, has been compelled to abandon foreign markets entirely, and to make all its purchases in New-York. They say that they can buy there from 10 to 20 per cent cheaper than they can import their own goods, notwithstanding the fact that they invariably paid and offered to pay cash for all goods imported. Field, Leiter & Co., and J. V. Farwell & Co., also of Chicago, two of the largest dry goods houses in the West, have long been large importers of general dry goods; but, like others, they are compelled to buy their broad silks in New-York. This is the experience not only of New-York and Western merbut also of those in Eastern cities. The investigation of this branch of the smuggling business will be very thorough, and an honest effort will be made, and in it the Secretary of the Treasury will be earnestly supported by the President, to

REPUBLICAN GAINS.

A STRIKING FACT IN LATE CITY ELECTIONS IN THE WEST.
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, April 11 .- Western friends of the President have written to him calling his attention to the great Republican gains that were made in the municipal elections last week, especially in Chieago and St. Louis. These former of the cities gave a najority of about 5,000 to the Democratic candiates in November, but elected Republican candidates last week by about 12,000 majority-making down stairs. Except having a few bruises she is a Republican gain of about 17,000. Much of this was undoubtedly due to local causes; but the fact that in each of the six or seven distinctively German wards the Republican gain was about 1,000 votes seems to show a general satisfaction of the German voters of Chicago with the policy of the Administration as thus far de veloped. It may be interesting to know in this con nection that the leading German paper of Chicago, The Staats Zeitung, which advocated the election of Gov. Tilden, has given President Hayes a most cordial and hearty support ever since his in auguration. There are other unmistakable signs that the German voters of the West are only flattered by the compliment not paid to them by the appointment of their distinguished representative, Gen. Schurz, to a Cabinet position, but they also very generally approve the policy of the Administration, and may be expected to support it in future elections. The President, in discussing with a friend recently the Republican gains in the West last week, and especially the growing popularity of the Republican party among the Germans, expressed the opinion that whenever the German and Irish voters act in harmony and against the Republican party it is almost invariably the fault of the managers of that organization.

POSTAL SERVICE. NEW MAIL HOUTE TO THE BLACK HILLS-MESSENGER

CONTRACT TO G. K. OHS. Washington, April 11.—The Post-Office De-

partment to-day awarded to M. F. Patrick, at \$17,500, the contract for temporary mail service, six times per week, from April 20 to Sept. 30 next, over the route tween Sidney, Neb., and Deadwood, in the Black Hills country, a distance of 270 miles. Provision has thus been made for mail communication with the Black Hills by three routes; the other two being from Kearney,

Neb., and Cheyenne, Wy. In addition to these the de-

partment will shortly place mail service on two or per haps three of the routes leading directly to the Black Hills from the Missouri River through the Sioux Reservation, which have been selected by the President under the provisions of the agreement entered into with the Sioux last Autumn, the eastern terminal points designated being Bismarck, Port Pierre, and Niobrara Proposals for service from Bismarck to Deadwood have already been invited, and will continue to be received until the 20th inst.

nifrendy been invited, and will continue to be received until the 20th inst.

The contest regarding the award of the contract for the New-York City "mail messenger service" was finally settled to-day in favor of G. K. Otis, the lowest bidder. Postmaster-General Key sustained the online rendered by Judge Spence, the law officer of the department, that notwithstanding Otis's bond was dated one day previous to the fining up of the blank proposal, it was made perfectly valid by the obligor's acknowledgment of it as aimet and deed, both at the time the proposal was presented and also when the bids were opened.

The Post-Office Department is advised that the departure from New-York of the steamer City of New-York with mails for Cuba has been postponed until the 13th inst. Cuban mails will also be dispatched by the steamer Rio Grande from New-York on the 14th inst.

THE APPEAL FOR IMMUNITY. DIFFERENCE OF OFINION BETWEEN THE GOVERN-MENT AND "FIRST BATCH" PEOPLE. IN TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, April 11.-Mr. French, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, completed his report in the matter of the immunity claimed for the first batch of the Chicago Watsky Ring to-day. The report will be presented to Secretary Sherman tomorrow. The latter will not act upon it until the return of Charles Reed, atterney for several of these interested from Chicago, which will be in four or five days. Mr. Reed has been permitted to examine Mr. French's opinion, but under the most solemn pledges not to disclose the nature of its contents to any one except his clients; but there is good reason to believe that the nature and contents of the report and the purport of Mr. Reed's visit to Chicago are in substance as below in-

The case is that of the first batch to which immunity was granted upon condition of turning State's evidence. That agreement was reduced to writing. It promises to terms entire criminal immunity for the persons named, but does not specify that the persons, or any of them, shall have civil immunity. It is claimed, however, that the agreement held out the hope to the defendants that if they testified trathfully and acted in good faith the Government would be lenient with them. For it was said that thus acting they would become the friends of the Government, and the Government might release them altegether. The Attorney-General of the United States, District-Attorney Bancs, the Commisioner of Internal Revenue, and it is said Secretary Mor rill, recommended that the cases of these persons should be settled in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The difficulty which Assistant Secretary French has found has been to determine what the agreement was. The distillers claim that it means complete civil as well as criminal immunity and a release of the judgments already found against them.

Mr. French has come to the conclusion and so reports to Secretary Sherman, that there is nothing in the papers on file in the department, or in the records of e case as presented to nim by the attorney for those claiming immunity, to show that civil immunity was granted. On the contrary, Mr. French will represent to he Secretary of the Treasury that the records of the Trensury affirmatively show that civil immunity was not granted. In support of this view he is understood to refer to the testimony of Binford Wilson, Supervisor Matthews, and the letter of ex-Secretary Bristow, rela tive to immunity. Mr. Bristow's position on the immu nity question is fully outlined in the following letter: WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 12, 1875.

nity question is fully outlined in the following letter:

To BLUFOED WILSON, M. Louis, 10.:

It is not easy at this distance to say what, if anything, should be conceded by the Government in particular cases in order to reap greater benefit in others. The District-Altoriay fami associates being on the kround and in possession of all the facts, are better qualified for such questions. I would say generally, however, that unless important ends are to be galaced in ciner cases I would make no terms with any indicted party. The question in hand does not relate alone to the amount of money involved in these particular cases, but affects the integrity of the revenue, and complete success in these prosecutions would be of great value to the Government hereafter. Therefore I would say to parties who offer to surender and ask terms, that they should plead "gailty" to the charges, or such of them as they admit to be true, make their statement to the court, throw themselves on its elemency, and submit themselves to such punishment as the court may pronounce. I would make no agreement in advance for suspension of judgment nor would. I ask the court after pleas of gailty, to answer dement of the party in open court it should be deemed proper to use himes a witness against a greater effender. The conviction and punishment of corrupt and guilty chicuals is of the first importance, and all proper means to time and should be used. The Attorney General and Commissioner of Internal Revenue concurr.

Mr. Wilson testified very clearly that the immunity Mr. Wilson testified very clearly that the immunity

was necessary to break up the Ring; but he is under

Attorney Charles Reed will leave for Chicago to-mor row. The purpose of his visit, although he refuses any information about it, is to obtain any proof that there may be in Chicago to show that the agree ment included civil immunity. This proof, if it exits must be in the possession of District-Attorney Bangs or of the special counsel. It is certain that Secre tary Sherman has informed Mr. Reed that he would abide in good faith by whatever agreement the Government had made with these people. Assistant Secretary French is understood to maintain that the agreement does not include civil immunity. Mr. Reed insists that it does. The issue turns upon that question of fact If Mr. Reed can prove to the satisfaction of the Secre tary of the Treasury that the agreement did include civil immunity, the Treasury Department will doubtless abide by the agreement. If this cannot be proved, there can also be no doubt that the decision of Secretary Sherman as to the first batch will be as severe as that laid down in his letter published last week with regard to the

APPOINTMENTS.

Washington, April 11 .- The President has reappointed Peter C. Shannon to be Chief Justice of the Territory of Dakotah, and Jacob J. Boreman to b Associate Justice of the Territory of Utah. Francis M. Weaver of West Virginia has been appointed Indian day appointed the following postmasters, viz.:

day appointed the following postmasters, viz.:

George C, Merrifield, Mishawaka, Ind.; Wm. J. Huff, Montheello Ind.; Free't W, Kiel, Fort Wayne, Ind.; U.C. Fellet, Michigan City, Ind.; Chas. G. Powell, Lagorte, Ind.; Bend, F. Wyne, Platteville, Wis. Jos. R. West, Evansville, Wis. Jos. R. West, Evansville, Wis. Chas. D. Fisher, Fortamouth, Mien.; Geo. W. Graham, Rushford, Minn.; J. Fred. Myers, Berison, Iowa; Simon H. Banman, Mount Vernon, Iowa; F. Z. Bishon, Elyria, Ohlo; Geo. P. Waldorf, Liano, Ohio; James H. Holeomb, Mallet Creek, Pho; Cyvas Hall, Shelbyville, Ininois, Wan. M. Hisdon, Short Cyvas Hall, Shelbyville, Ininois, Wan. M. Hisdon, Short Cyvas Hall, Shelbyville, Ininois, Wan. M. Mastion, Kyouth Holly, N. J.; Hanry Weltrotth, Bordentown, N. J.; James R. Lovelt, Philippiarg, N. J.; William R. Mattison, Auventon, N. J.; Hawtionne Birt, Mt. Morris, N. J.; John aureb, Bethlehen, Penn., Win. A. Minitzor, Potstown, Venn.; T. Simmons, Johnstown, N. Y. Mrs. Mary E. Baker, Hockport, N. Y.; Jos. D. Brown, Tarrytown, N. Y.; Daniel, Pearing, Elmira, N. Y.; Charles C, Miller, Penn Yan. I. Y. Bendy, F. Judson, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.; Daniel, Taddory, Klugsson, N. Y.; Perp, F. Wilson, Pattam, Conn.; mes JA. Bathbun, Mystic Bridge, Conn.; George H. Pierin, Salem, Mass.

WASHINGTON NOTES. WASHINGTON, Wednesday, April 11, 1877.

The published statement that E. Gilman, ne of Lee's guards, has filed at the Atterney-General's office an affidavit to the effect that the confession of Lee promising a reprieve, and that several important facts of the confession implicating Brigham Young were omitted. is denied by the Attorney-General. On the other hand, any amidavits from the inhabitants of Salt Lake City have been received by the Attorney-General complaining of the character of the man Gilman, branding him as a finr and a thief, and speaking in high terms of District-Attorney Howard and Marshai Nelson.

Senator Blaine is expected to visit Washington soon, and much interest is manifested in the course he will pursue touching the present political situation. Gentlemen who conversed with him just before his departure to Maine say that at that time he looked more favorably on President Haves's Southern policy than he did du the first lew days after the manguration, and confide predict that he will give it an cornest support.

The new Board of Police Commissioners have dismissed the charges beretofore made against Major Richards, Superintendent of Police, and the detective corps, on the ground that the public interests do not now require the singling out of a few subordinates to punish them for a state of things which had been the imperceptible growth of years, and for which their superior officers were still

Goy. Hartranft of Pennsylvania had an interview with the President to-day. The ante-rooms at the Executive Mansion are througed with persons anxious for an inter-view, all of whom are at the White House with regard to obtaining positions of some kind.

United States Treasurer Wyman has been so ill for several days as to be unable to attend to public business.

WAR AGAIN THREATENED.

BOTH RUSSIA AND TURKEY STUBBORN THE TURKS WEARY OF SUSPENSE-ENGLAND ABAN-DONS TURKEY - THE TURKS DEFENDING THE

LONDON, Wednesday, April 11, 1877

A special telegram to the second edition of The Times from Constantinopie says: "Safvet Pasha, communicating the Porte's determinations to the foreign representatives, expressed the regret of the Suitan and his Ministers at their inability to follow the well-meant advice of the Powers, but both political and financial reasons rendered it absolutely necessary to terminate the present intolerable position of uncertainty."

Business on the Stock Exchange to-day is very flat. Turkish bonds are lower than at any time since the de thronemeut of Seltan Abdul Aziz last May.

A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram Company from Con-

stantinople says Safvet Pasha has informed the Monte-negrin delegates that it is impossible for Turkey to cede Nicsies, Koutchi, or Kolatschin, because the Chamber of Deputies has rejected their demands for territory. Safvet added, however, that the Senate had still to examine the question. The Montenegrins replied by asking for a final answer on Friday. If their demands are refused, which ems to be certain, they will quit Constantinople on Sat-

BRUSSEIS, Wednesday, April 11, 1877. The Nord says Lord Derby's reservation on signing the protocol has been misinterpreted at Constantinople. Lord Derby has since written to Constantinople cate gorically declaring that the Porte must in no way rely

St. Petersburg, Wednesday, April 11, 1877. The Golos to-day says: "Europe probably within the east week will receive clear proof of Russia's determination to attain the end for which her troops have been concentrated on the frontier." BUCHAREST, Wednesday, April 11, 1877.

The Turks display great activity in pushing forward military preparations. Twenty-four Krupp guns arrived recently for the defense of the banks of the Danube. Six battalions, with horses and ammunition for artillery landed at Varna yesterday. Sadyk Pasha daily concludes contracts for provisions. Flour is being forwarded to Widdin, where several thousand soldiers are completing he outworks. The territorial army of the Villarget of the Danube is already in arms.

Ragusa, Wednesday, April 11, 1877. There have been continued conflicts for the last three days between the Turks and Miridites. SAFVET PASHA DEEMS WAR PROBABLE.

LONDON, Thursday, April 12, 1877.

The Standard's special dispatch from Constantinople says Safvet Pasha was present in the Chamber of Depu-ties when the Montenegrin proposals were rejected. He was asked whether their rejection would cause war, and replied it probably would, though he was not certain.

The Standard's Vienna dispatch reports that the Rus sian Embassadors will receive instructions to make known to the governments to which they are accredited that Russia interprets the Protocol under the present circumstances as binding the signaturies to consi mediately those common steps for which the Protocol fixed no time. The Russian diplomatists' anticipate that Turkey's refusal will provoke action on the part of all the six Powers.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

PRINCE BISMARCK'S RETIREMENT. Benlin, Wednesday, April 11, 1877.

President von Forckenbeck has just read in the Reichstag a letter from Prince Bismarck, expressing regret that the impaired state of his health prevented his attendance at Parliament, and notifying that he had obtained leave of absence. Herr Hofmann, President of the Imperial Chancellery, will take his place in the Department of Home Affairs, Herr von Bulow in the Department of Foreign Affairs, and Herr Camphausen will represent him in the Prussian Cabinet.

An Imperial order, dated Tuesday, grants leave of absence to Prince Bismarck until August next.

TRANSATLANTIC STEAMSHIP TRAFFIC. LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, April 11, 1877.

At a meeting of the Steamship Conference to-day it was resolved that from the 1st of May the In-man, Guion, National, and White Star lines would run steamers forinightly instead of weekly, thus withdrawing half of the present fleet. The Cunard steamers will continue to sail every Saturday.

FOREIGN NOTES. Madrid, April 11 .-- The Cortes has been con-

roked for April 25. HALIFAX, April 11 .- A 96-foot whale was

LONDON, April 11.-The race for the steeple chase challenge cup at the Croydon meeting is declared void.

HAVANA, April 6 .- The Captain-General has seen ordered from Spain to desist from lovying war axes upon the German merchants.

Berlin, April 11 .- An Imperial order susends all measures against the rinderpest, which may be

OTTAWA, April 11 .- The Minister of Militia ays 20,000 men will be drilled for 20 days at Company and Eattalion Hendquarters this season. Those corps which did not complete their drill last year will be drilled first this season.

THE SOLDIERS OF ALASKA.

GEN. SHERMAN DIRECTED TO EVACUATE THE TER 

WASHINGTON, April 11 .- For several months past the question of withdrawing the troops from the Territory of Alaska and turning that Territory over to the control of the Treasury Department has been dis-cussed at Cabinet meetings. Numerous letters upon the subject have passed between the Secretary of War, Moj.-Gen. McDowell, commanding the military division of the Pacific, and the Secretary of the Treasury.

One reason urged for the withdrawal of the treops was that cases of conflict of authority frequently arose in Washington Territory, on account of the military in Alaska making arrests of persons who were brought to the last named Territory for trial, there being no civil authorities in Alaska. The expense of keeping a military force there was moreover greater than at any other point. Recently a fire destroyed a portion of the bar-racks, and it was estimated that it would require \$12,000 to repair the damage. Companies G and M of the 4th Artillery, numbering 73 men, have been stationed at Sitka, and Company A of the same regiment, numbering 35 men, has been stationed at Fort Wrangel, making total of 108 soldiers located in the Territory.

It has finally been determined that they shall be with-drawn, and the control of the Territory transferred to the Treasury Department. The Secretary of War has accordingly sent the following letter to Gen. Sherman, who will direct Gen. McDowell to withdraw the troops :

will direct Gen. McDowell to withdraw the troops:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, April 10, 1877.

Gen. W. T. Sherman, United States Army:
General: By direction of the Preshient, the United States troops now in garrison at certain posts in the Territory of Alaska, will be withdrawn upon the arrival of the revenue cutter how fitting out under the control of the Treasury Department, and which is expected to arrive in Alaska waters about the 15th of May. So much of the public property in charge of the inilitary officers as cannot be removed, will be turned over to the captain of the revenue cutter, or such other official of the Treasury Department as may be declarated, of which due notice will be given you; and upon the departments over affairs in Alaska will cease. The troops will be ordered to such posts in the Military Division of the Pacific as the commending General, with your approval, may designate. Very respectfully your obedient servant, Can. W. McCrark, Servicerary of Was. may designate. Very respectfully your obedient serva Gho. W. McChart, Secretary of War

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

MONTPELIER, Vt., April 11.—George Short, who was shot by Arbuckle yesterday, is alive and will probably recover. Arbuckle is supposed to be lisane. Thoy, N. Y., April 11.—Masked burglars entered Michael Dolan's farm-house, in Watervilet, last night, and during a struggle with them Dolan and his son were severely injured. The burglars secured \$70 and escaped.

BAITIMORE, Md., April 11.—The office effects of the Baitimore agency of the Continental Life Insurance Com-pany were soid yesterday at a landlord's sale, but the aggre-gate received was not sufficient to cover the arrearages due for rent.

HALIFAX, April 11.—The following vessels, with cargoes of seals, have arrived to date: Neptune, 40,000; Pauther, 20, 00; Arctle, 24,000; Greenland, 29,000; Bear, 10,000; Leopard, 6,000; Kite, 14,000; Nimrod, 15,000; Proteus, 16,000; Aurora, 14,000.

teus, 16,000; Aurora, 14,000.

EVANSVILLE, Ind., April 11.—Edward Leyer, convicted of murder and sentenced to the penitentiary for lifedied in his cell to-day. He is supposed to have been potented and his wife, who had tree access to the criminal, is supposed to have furnished him with the deadly drug.